



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

INFORMATION SERVICE

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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F.W.S. MAKES ANNUAL WINTER FEEDING PLEA FOR WILDLIFE

The approach of winter prompted the Fish and Wildlife Service today to make its annual plea to the country's nature-lovers: feed our wildlife while their natural food is imperiled by inclement weather.

Winter weather cuts down the availability of natural food and cover for non-migratory and non-hibernating wildlife--crowding such species as upland game birds, many songbirds, and some small mammals into insecure patches of cover; forcing them to subsist on scanty foods; and often making them wholly dependent on man for survival.

The Fish and Wildlife Service called on conservation-minded citizens to lend a hand to wildlife by throwing table scraps, suet, grains, seeds, and other food wastes on the ground or snow for small birds that inhabit trees. Home-owners can also erect feeding trays and platforms on window sills, posts, branches of trees, and in protected shelters, the Service said.

Farmers were asked to deposit excess stores of shocked corn or threshed grain, weed seeds, and dried fruits and berries in pits dug in the snow, in natural wind-breaks or shelters, on haystacks, hard-packed roads, and railroad rights-of-way. The Service suggested that they set their harvesting machines to leave long, high stubble and more weeds, and that stubble fields near thick growths of underbrush be left unplowed over the winter.

Feeding stations should be placed so that easy access to good protective cover and effective means of escape will be afforded. They should be sheltered from drifting snow, wind, and sleet, and should not constitute traps, where the birds can be cornered by predators.

Some weeds that provide winter food for birds are considered pests by farmers. But the Service reminded the farmer that by their destruction of insects during the crop seasons, birds will repay him for the aid he gives them in winter.

Conservation Bulletin #12, Feeding Wildlife in Winter, which provides full details on this subject, can be obtained free by writing to the Division of Information, Fish and Wildlife Service, Washington 25, D. C.

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